

REMARKS

The Examiner has issued an Official Action requiring restriction between two groups of inventions. The groups identified by the Examiner are:

Group I: Claims 1-23, 26 and 29-30, drawn to a double stranded RNA molecule capable of suppressing the expression of a target gene in a cell by RNAi designed so that one or more nucleotides from the 3' end of the sense strand is not complementary to the antisense strand and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strands to enable hybridization of both strands in a cell.

Group II: Claims 24-25 and 27-28, drawn to a method of suppressing the expression of a target gene in a cell comprising introducing a double stranded RNA molecule into a cell.

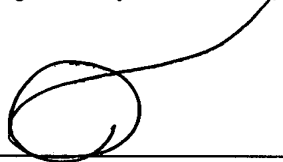
Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement.

However, to expedite prosecution, the claims of Group I, claims 1-23, 26, 29 and 30 are provisionally elected.

All rights to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims and/or any other subject matter disclosed in the specification are preserved.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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